

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7271

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AF, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) FAIL TO AGREE ON MANDATE
FOR KINGSTON MINISTEREAL

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS
JULY 22 AND 23 CAME TO SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON MUCH OF THEIR POS-
ITION FOR THE UPCOMING ACP NEGOTIATIONS IN KINGSTON. HOWEVER, DUE TO
A BRITISH OBJECTION ON SUGAR, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES,
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IN HIS CAPACITY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT,HAS GONE TO KINGSTON WITH WHAT

AMOUNTS TO AN INCOMPLETE MANDATE. END SUMMARY

2. THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, THOUGH UNABLE TO GAIN FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSED MANDATE FOR THE KINGSTON MINISTERIAL, AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR THE MEETING:

3. RECIPROCITY: THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES REPORTED IN EC BRUSSELS 5438 WHICH INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT RECIPROCITY IS NOT REQUIRED OF THE ACP COUNTRIES.

4. STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A COMPROMISE POSITION OFFERED BY THE CHAIRMAN WHICH WAS FORMULATED WITHOUT SPECIFIC FIGURES OR A LISTING OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS, GIVING ONLY A GENERAL INDICATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S APPROACH. IT PROVIDES THAT IF AN ACP COUNTRY'S EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY DROP BELOW THE LEVEL OF PREVIOUS YEARS, THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPENSATION WHICH, IN PRINCIPLE, WILL BE REIMBURSABLE. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE COSTS OF THIS STABILIZATION MECHANISM WILL BE FUNNELED THROUGH THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. (SEE PARAGRAPH 6).

5. SUGAR: IN THE CONTEXT OF STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON EITHER THE AMOUNT OF THE COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE SUGAR FROM CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES OR ON THE PRICE WHICH WOULD BE OFFERED. THE BRITISH ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THE CURRENT FIGURE OF 1.4 MILLION TONS OF UK SUGAR IMPORTS FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AN OBLIGATION ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH SHOULD BE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED PRIOR TO THE KINGSTON MEETING. THE OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE BRITISH PROPOSAL. REPORTEDLY, THEY WANT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR SUGAR, PRIOR TO CONSIDERING EXTERNAL COMMITMENTS. BECAUSE THE BRITISH DID NOT SUCCEED IN GETTING THE COMMUNITY TO UNDERTAKE A COMMITMENT ON SUGAR, THEY OBJECTED, THEREBY BLOCKING AGREEMENT ON THE COMPLETE MANDATE.

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6. EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND: THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON THE SIZE OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. HOWEVER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON A FUND APPROXIMATELY THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF THE PRESENT FUND, I.E., 3 BILLION UA OVER 5 YEARS.

7. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL

SESSION, SAUVAGNARGUES EMPHAZIZED THE PARTIAL AGREE-
MENT ON STABILIZATION, CALLING IT "VERY IMPORTANT",
AND SAID THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.
HE ACKNOWLEDGED HE WOULD NOT HAVE FULL AGREEMENT
ON HIS MANDATE FOR KINGSTON, BUT SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT
"THIS OR THAT DELEGATION" MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT THEIR
DIFFICULTIES BEFORE OR DURING THE KINGSTON CONFERENCE.

8. COMMENT: DESPITE THE COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO COMPLETE THE
MANDATE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SAUVAGNARGUES INTENDS TO PROCEED
ON THE BASIS OF VARIOUS GENERAL AND SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDINGS
REACHED AT THIS MEETING. THE LACK OF A FORMAL MANDATE COULD
PUT SAUVAGNARGUES AND THE EC DELEGATION IN A DIFFICULT POSITION
IN KINGSTON ALTHOUGH THE NINE MAY BE ABLE TO REACH A COORDINATED
POSTION ON THE SPOT UNDER PRESSURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. GREENWALD

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